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Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20545

MAY 29 1987

Mr. Carl Schafer
Director of Environmental Policy
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary
of Defense for Installations
Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Schafer:

As you know, the Department of Energy (DOE) is implementing a program to identify sites that may be radiologically contaminated as a result of DOE predecessor operations and to correct any problems associated with this contamination if there is DOE authority to do so. Reviews of historical materials from the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) era conducted in support of this program have identified a number of active and former Department of Defense (DOD) installations and DOD contractor sites involved in activities related to the MED/AEC operations.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information collected to date on DOD sites and advise you of actions taken by DOE concerning these sites (Enclosures 1 and 2). At the request of the Commander, U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency (DRXTH-AS), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, DOE provided that Agency similar information that was available at that time. A copy of the letter dated July 23, 1982, is provided for your information (Enclosure 3). The list of sites and summaries of activities contained in Enclosures 1 and 2 update the information provided in the 1982 letter and include additional sites.

Enclosure 1 lists 12 sites for which DOE believes there is sufficient information available to indicate the potential for residual radioactive contamination at the sites and to determine if DOE has authority to take further action. Your attention is specifically directed to the two sites identified in the enclosure that are known to contain measurable quantities of residual radioactive material, for which DOE has no authority to conduct remedial action. The sites are marked by an asterisk.

Information assembled to date on the 22 DOD or former DOD sites identified in Enclosure 2 is limited. The potential for radiological contamination at these sites varies. Those sites believed to have the highest potential are identified with asterisks. DOE has not identified any information on these sites that would provide the Department with the authority for remedial action. As a result, the sites listed are referred to you for consideration under appropriate DOD programs.

As indicated in the July 23, 1982, letter to Col. J. D. Spence (Enclosure 2), the names of several sites are formally restricted data and classified "confidential." These site names were provided to Col. Spence in a subsequent letter and are not included on the enclosed list.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, call me at 353-4716. Questions regarding the list or specific sites should be directed to Mr. Andrew Wallo of my staff at 353-5439.

Sincerely,

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James J. Fiore, Director
Division of Facility and Site
Decommissioning Projects
Office of Nuclear Energy

3 Enclosures

bcc:
Aerospace

NE-20 RF
NE-23 RF
Wallo RF
NEG (4)

NE-23:AWallo:ph:353-5439:5/28/87:IBM:148/9:

NE-2

Wallo

5/28

NE-2

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5/29

ENCLOSURE 1

DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS/FACILITIES

Installation/Facility

MED/AEC Activity

1. Alabama Ordnance Works
Sylacauga, AL

A heavy water (P9) plant was constructed and operated on this installation from 1944 to June 1945. No residual contamination is suspected as a result of operation.

2. Morgantown Ordnance Works
Morgantown, WV

MED constructed and operated a heavy water plant on this installation from 1944 to 1945. There is no reason to suspect residual radioactive contamination from this operation.

3. Naval Office - University of
New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Apparently a transshipment station for atomic equipment to the Los Alamos site. It has been found that would indicate the presence of radioactive material at this site.

4. Naval Ordnance Laboratory
White Oak
Silver Spring, MD

Identified on 1955 Accountability Lists. This site is currently operating under an NRC license.

5. Navy Yard
Marine Island, CA

Identified in MED historical records as a transshipment point for material from Tinian. Also served as a manufacturing facility for special tools and equipment required at the Hanford Works. Other Yards along the west coast apparently performed similar manufacturing tasks. However there is no record of inventory of radioactive material.

ENCLOSURE 1 (Cont'd)

DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS/FACILITIES

<u>Installation/Facility</u>	<u>MED/AEC Activity</u>
6. Niagara Falls Storage Site (Former Lake Ontario Ordnance Works) Lewiston, NY	A portion of this former ordnance acquired by the AEC and used for residues and scrap and later the boron-10 plant. Remedial action under the Department of Energy F Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program essentially complete. The site maintained under the DOE Surplus Management Program.
7. Raritan Arsenal (*) Edison, NJ	Radiation levels above natural background found in several buildings during investigation requested by the EIS. No evidence of involvement with radioactive materials at this site found.
8. Seneca Army Depot Romulus, NY	Ammunition igloos (magazines) on installation were used during the store high grade uranium ore. Radiation contamination was cleaned up by the Army.
9. Wabash River Ordnance Works Newport, IN	MED constructed a heavy water plant installation on approximately 100 acres initially identified as Plant No. 1. The plant was also known as the Newport Plant and later the Dana Plant. U.S. Army CBR Agency was the accountable agency for the property.

ENCLOSURE 1 (Cont'd)

DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS/FACILITIES

Installation/Facility

MED/AEC Activity

10. Watertown Arsenal (*)
Watertown, MA

MED and AEC operations involving material were conducted on this site from 1946 until 1953. The Army work involving depleted uranium was under AEC contract. Records indicate commercial firm, Manufacturing Laboratories, Inc., located at 272 Northampton Boston did work with uranium metal in conjunction with the work done at Arsenal for a period of approximately (1953). The Arsenal apparently conducted operations in 1967. Radioactive properties known to be radioactive contaminated was transferred to the Materials Research Agency, along Source Material License SUB-238. The Arsenal property that was transferred to GSA control was sold. DOE survey indicates radiation levels above guidelines. These properties remain under control of the Army and the GSA. Contamination on the GSA property may be related to Army work. There is no DOE authority under FUSRAP to provide DOE authority under FUSRAP additional action at this site.

11. Wright Air Development Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force
Base, OH

Copies of AEC Source Material License correspondence related thereto in the Center's Power Plant Laboratory participated in a joint USAF-AEC Agreement from 1955 through 1957. A kilowatt facility was constructed and operated. The Center operated several AEC Source Material Licenses during the period.

ENCLOSURE 1 (Cont'd)

DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS/FACILITIES

Installation/Facility

12. Weldon Spring Site
(U.S. Army Chemical Plant)
St. Charles County, MO

MED/AEC Activity

In 1956, 219 acres of the former Ordnance Works was acquired by the Army as a uranium feed material processing facility. The facility was closed in 1966. The facility, including the Chemical Plant building and support facilities, was transferred to the Army in 1967. Portions of the site are contaminated with uranium residues. Remedial action at the site will be conducted by the Department of the Army. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between DOE and DA to provide for joint chemical plant remediation. Radionuclide contamination on vicinity property is being addressed by DOE. However, contamination on the neighboring Reserve property is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Army.

ENCLOSURE 2

DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS/FACILITIES

Installation/Facility

MED/AEC Activity

1. Air Force Plant #36 (*)
Evendale, OH

The AEC occupied Buildings C and other smaller auxiliary structure plant from 1961 through June 30, use permit from the Air Force. 1 was allowed to expire and custody facility was returned to the Air January 1981, 1/4 of the plant wa contaminated, primarily in the ar identified above. The contaminat the plant was being maintained by contract to the Air Force. Curre this portion of the plant is unkn However, there are indications th radiological characterization wor by the Nuclear Regulatory Commiss in process or is planned for the

2. Burlington Ordnance Plant
(Formerly the Iowa Ordnance Works)
Burlington, IA

The site was cleared by ERDA for use and transferred to the Depart Army. Historically, this install been involved in weapons assembly AEC or ERDA operations are unknow

3. Curtis Wright (Metals
Processing Division)
Buffalo, NY

Performed casting, forging and ex operations funded by the U.S. Air press program. Also performed ex for the contractor operator (Nati Company of Ohio) of the AEC Feed Production Center (FMPC).

4. Frankford Arsenal
Pitman-Dunn Laboratories
Philadelphia, Pa

Conducted research involving the uranium tetrachloride. Activities Arsenal may have also involved the substantial quantities of uranium

ENCLOSURE 2 (Cont'd)

DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS/FACILITIES

Installation/Facility

MED/AEC Activity

5. Granite City Army Depot (*)
Granite City, IL

Records indicate that approximately (28,000 drums) of rare earths and residues owned by the GSA were stored at this installation. These drums, reported to be in poor condition when removed in 1961, leaked and contaminated the storage area.

6. Marion Ordnance Works
Marion, OH

An AEC Health & Safety Laboratory investigation indicates meta-scopes were stored at this installation. No evidence of AEC involvement has been found.

7. Naval Ammunition Depot
Red Bank, NJ

Collection point for unserviceable drums and scrap (radioactive) for - late 1940's and early 1950's. Census identifies the site location as NJ.

8. Naval Boiler and Turbine Lab.
Philadelphia Navy Yard
Philadelphia, PA

Abelson's S-50 thermal diffusion process was built and operated on this facility beginning in the summer of 1944. Large quantities of uranium hexafluoride were processed on this site in 1945.

9. Naval Gun Factory and
Bureau of Ordnance
Washington, DC

Designed guns and nuclear projectiles. Radioactive material involvement in operations is unknown.

10. Naval Ordnance Plant
Centerline, MI

Believed to have assembled bomb components.

11. Naval Proving Ground
Dahlgren, VA

Identified on 1954 Accountable Status Report.

ENCLOSURE 2 (Cont'd)

DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS/FACILITIES

Installation/Facility

MED/AEC Activity

12. Naval Research Laboratory
(Former Anacostia Naval Air
Station)
Washington, DC

Conducted research and developmer
on thermal diffusion. A pilot pl
Plant) was built at the former Ar
Air Station to separate uranium i
liquid thermal diffusion.

13. Nellis Air Force Base (*)
Las Vegas, NV

A letter dated 26 Aug 1969 from t
Officer, Lake Mead Base, to the C
Field Command, Sandia Base indica
a dry waste disposal area for rad
materials on the installation. Th
visited by personnel from the Dep
Energy Nevada Operations Office i
1983. Specifics of quantity and
concentrations of radionuclides p
unknown.

14. Norfolk Naval Station
Norfolk, VA

A demonstration - uranium turning
related firefighting techniques -
conducted on this installation on
1956. Specific location and resu
decontamination of demonstration

15. Pennsylvania Ordnance Works (*)
Williamsport, PA

Approximately 100,000 pounds of U
turnings were stored by the MED i
of the ammunition igloos (magazin
installation during 1943 and 1944
time the magazines were numbered
and 146.

16. Picatinny Arsenal
Dover, NJ

AEC health & safety inspection rej
indicate that operations involving
machining of uranium metal were co
this installation.

ENCLOSURE 2 (Cont'd)

DEPARTMENT OF THE DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS/FACILITIES

Installation/Facility

MED/AEC Activity

17. Reactor Site - Fort Belvoir
Fort Belvoir, VA

AEC Health & Safety Laboratory conducted inspections of the site. No evidence of involvement with the reactor, except health and safety inspections, has been found.

18. Rock Island Arsenal
Rock Island, IL

Contract work for the Los Alamos Laboratory (LASL) was done on the installation. However, there is no indication that radioactive materials were handled at this facility.

19. Twin Cities Ammunition Plant
New Brighton, MN

Operations at the site were licensed under Part 70 by the NRC. The NRC license does not contain sufficient information to determine if the site was decontaminated to current standards.

20. U.S. Naval Radiological Defense
Laboratory
Health Physics Division
San Francisco, CA

Identified on 1955 Accountability Lists. This activity was involved in the decontamination of ships.

21. U.S. Naval Supply Depot (*)
Building 546
Scotia, NY

This facility served as a storage and transshipment point for feed materials for the Hanford site and commercial fuel fabricators in the northeastern United States. Large quantities of uranium and thorium were handled at this facility.

22. Westinghouse Naval Ordnance
Plant
Detroit, MI,

Performed contract work for the Albuquerque Operations Office. No evidence has been found that would indicate involvement with radioactive materials.

NOTE: (*) - Information assembled to date indicates significant potential for radioactive contamination. Priority consideration is recommended.